

THOUSANDS EXPECTED AT ONE HOUR SANTA CLAUS PARADE FRIDAY, 6 P.M.



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VOL. VII | 2 ■ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1955 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA No. 34

Mayor Signs Lease For Airport Triangle Shopping Center

Mayor Albert Isen, with the approval of the City Council executed a lease with Store Properties, Inc. for the airport triangle shopping center site Tuesday night, following City Attorney Jim Hall's ruling that "the city has entered into a binding lease agreement with Store Properties, Inc."

This action climaxes a controversy which arose when Store Properties asked for a "technical" change in the lease. This was understood by other developers now interested in the property as signifying that the city's commitment was no longer binding and that the site should be opened to bid.

It was also maintained that the property should have been opened to competitive bidding in the first place.

Bids Not Necessary.
On these points, Hall ruled as (Turn to Page 4)

COUNCIL BRIEFS

VICTOR TRACT: Unanimous approval was granted by members of the council for circulation of petitions for annexation of the Victor tract to the city of Torrance. A majority of the 161 registered voters in the area would have to approve any annexation decision at a special election. Redondo is also studying the possibility of annexing the area.

ARLINGTON AVE.: Council (Turn to Page 43)

GallenKamp's Locating Here

A lease has been signed with GallenKamp's for the corner store at El Prado and Cravens. George Binder, owner of the property now under construction, announced yesterday. The new shoe store is expected to open around the first of February. Two stores are presently being constructed on the site formerly occupied by Van de Kamp's. Benson's dress shop will move in at one location (30 ft. by 60 ft. store) and GallenKamp's will take over the corner location (40 ft. by 65 ft.)

Five Councilmen or Seven?

Should the Torrance City Council membership be increased from five councilmen to seven?

It is timely to ask this question now because Torrance's population, which stands at 67,459, has tripled within five years and shows every indication of increasing at a spectacular rate.

There is one factor which speaks highly in favor of a 7-man rather than a 5-man council.

It would be more difficult for councilmen to form cliques and vote as a block. Furthermore, it would be less likely that decisions in major controversial issues would depend on one pivotal vote as is apt to be the case with a 5-man council where one councilman must often shoulder the burden of deciding the fate of an issue.

Aside from this consideration, there are a number of factors which speak both for and against a 7-man council.

Among seven cities canvassed whose population is about the same as or more than that of Torrance, five of them have a 5-man council and two of them have a 7-man council. (Cities canvassed include Burbank, 5; Santa Monica, 7; Compton, 5; Inglewood, 5; South Gate, 5; Pasadena, 7; Glendale, 5.)

On the basis of these figures, the benefits of a 5-man or 7-man council seem to be purely arbitrary since Pasadena, with a population of 117,564, uses a 7-man council while Glendale, with a population of 115,164, is obviously content with a 5-man council. Similarly Burbank (population 92,904) has five councilmen while Santa Monica (population 78,203) has seven councilmen.

One of the values of a 5-man council is that decisions are reached more rapidly and that there is less chance of prolonged bickering and confusion.

However a 7-man council is more apt to make more studied and more representative decisions. With the city's problems increasing as they do in a growing community, the work load would also be lessened and spread out more evenly where there are seven instead of only five councilmen to share it.

We feel that the pros and cons of the issue deserves serious consideration by members of the city council as well as Torrance residents, if for no other reason than to take inventory of what we have and to assure ourselves of its adequacy or inadequacy for future action.

Police To Stake Out Litterbugs

A police hunt for litterbugs was ordered Tuesday night by the City Council upon recommendation of City Manager George Stevens.

Police Chief Willard Haslam was instructed to form a refuse detail whose purpose would be to "specifically hunt down and stake out" all dumpers and litterbugs in the city of Torrance.

"We must have some arrests and stiff sentences," Stevens told the council, stating that this will be the only effective solution to keeping the city clean.

Maximum penalty for dumping trash along the street is six months in jail or a \$500 fine or both.

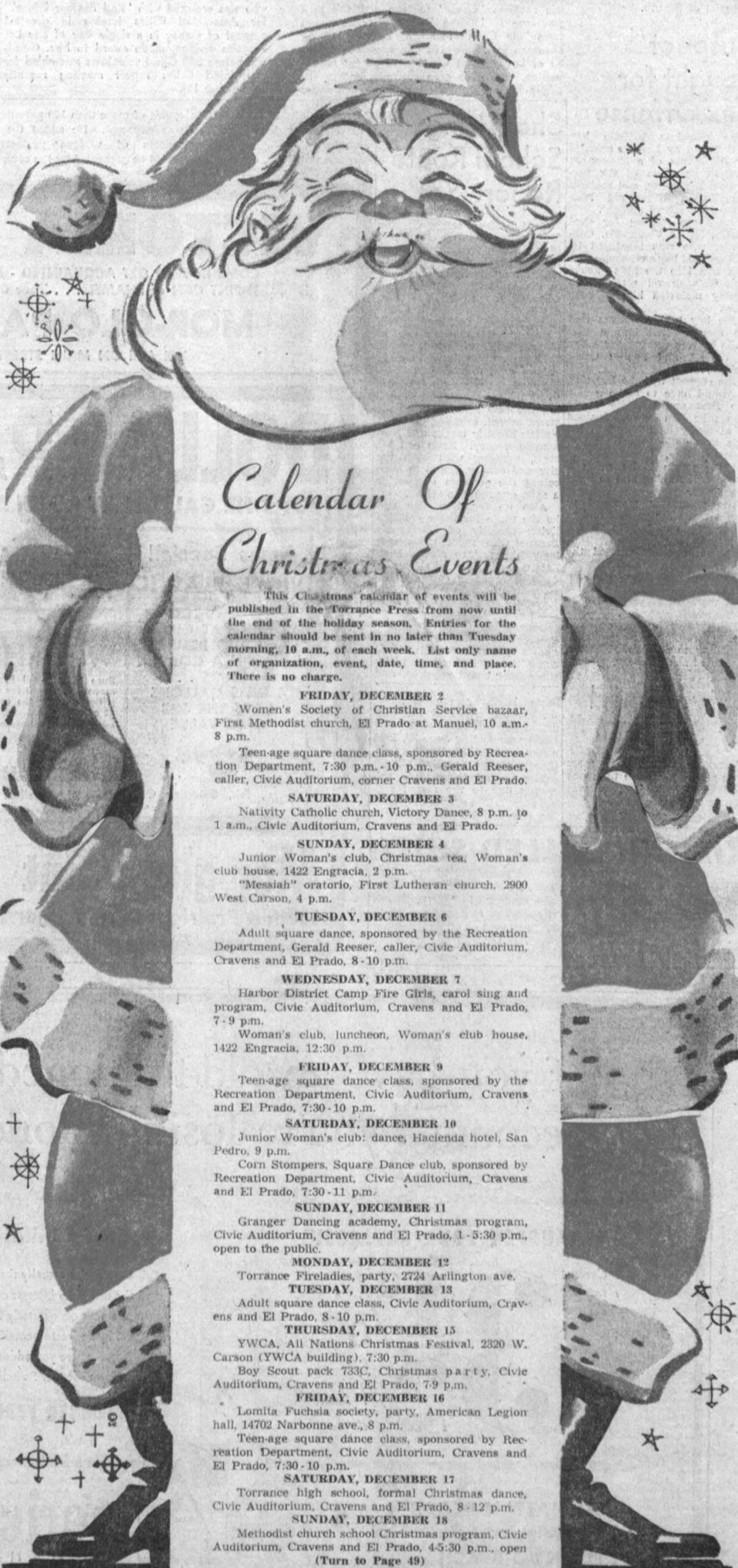
In the meantime city clean up crews were going into full swing cleaning the streets up for Christmas. Street department personnel have been hauling away hundreds of truckloads of trash.

Ten more trash receptacles have also been placed around downtown Torrance to help shoppers keep their shopping area clean.

Press to Collect Yule Gifts for Kids in Hospital

Torrance residents will again have a chance to make a lot of little children happy at Christmas time this year. As in previous years, the Torrance Press is issuing a call for Christmas gifts for children at Harbor General Hospital.

These gifts may now be brought to the Press office, 1406 Cravens ave., and will be taken to the two children's (Turn to Page 49)



Calendar Of Christmas Events

This Christmas calendar of events will be published in the Torrance Press from now until the end of the holiday season. Entries for the calendar should be sent in no later than Tuesday morning, 10 a.m., of each week. List only name of organization, event, date, time, and place. There is no charge.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Women's Society of Christian Service bazaar, First Methodist church, El Prado at Manuel, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Teen-age square dance class, sponsored by Recreation Department, 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m., Gerald Reeser, caller, Civic Auditorium, corner Cravens and El Prado.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Nativity Catholic church, Victory Dance, 8 p.m.-10 1 a.m., Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Junior Woman's club, Christmas tea, Woman's club house, 1422 Engracia, 2 p.m.

"Messiah" oratorio, First Lutheran church, 2900 West Carson, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Adult square dance, sponsored by the Recreation Department, Gerald Reeser, caller, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Harbor District Camp Fire Girls, carol sing and program, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 7-9 p.m.

Woman's club, luncheon, Woman's club house, 1422 Engracia, 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Teen-age square dance class, sponsored by the Recreation Department, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 7:30-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Junior Woman's club: dance, Hacienda hotel, San Pedro, 9 p.m.

Corn Stompers, Square Dance club, sponsored by Recreation Department, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 7:30-11 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Granger Dancing academy, Christmas program, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 1-5:30 p.m., open to the public.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Torrance Fireladies, party, 2724 Arlington ave.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Adult square dance class, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 8-10 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

YWCA, All Nations Christmas Festival, 2320 W. Carson (YWCA building), 7:30 p.m.

Boy Scout pack 733C, Christmas party, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 7-9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Lomita Fuchsia society, party, American Legion hall, 14702 Narbonne ave., 8 p.m.

Teen-age square dance class, sponsored by Recreation Department, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 7:30-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Torrance high school, formal Christmas dance, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 8-12 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Methodist church school Christmas program, Civic Auditorium, Cravens and El Prado, 4-5:30 p.m., open (Turn to Page 49)

Compromise Parking Plan OK'd

Torrance is going all out to usher in the Christmas season with a big welcoming parade Friday honoring Santa Claus—the perennial spirit of good cheer—who will be royally escorted to Santaland in downtown Torrance where he will reign supreme throughout the holiday season.

Santa will arrive at Torrance Municipal Airport (on Pacific Coast highway between Hawthorne and Crenshaw) at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, December 2, and will then be whisked away for an inspection of his workshop in Santaland, corner Cravens and El Prado, where he will turn on the street lights and Santaland lights as first official duty.

He will then join the 90 parading units at Carson and Cabrillo who will march through downtown Torrance at 6 p.m. Santa's float will be the last element in the parade and will be parked immediately in front of Santaland following the parade.

Approval is subject to the city attorney's ruling on whether the city may loan \$35,000 out of the general fund for off-street parking purposes.

The compromise plan calls for the creation of an off-street parking assessment district as well as for the immediate purchase of some sites through money provided by property (Turn to Page 4)

Every Week, All Year Long—Results

We never did find out how many calls Mrs. John Boyd received, but when we talked to her Thursday morning she had already had 31 calls.

What caused all this commotion? Just a small classified ad which Mrs. Boyd, who lives at 25902 Cypress, placed in the Torrance Press:

FURNISHED GARAGE apartment. Utilities paid, \$10 a week. 25902 Cypress, Lomita, CA. 6-6504.

"I wish I had at least a dozen apartments for rent," she exclaimed. "I've NEVER seen such response! I'll certainly call the Press again the next time I want to place an ad."

That's the happy story which we hear every week from January to December. For the best results—anywhere—call FA. 8-2345 and place your ad. It's so convenient and so inexpensive.

Car Clubs Set Charity Paper Drive

Plans for a paper drive which will last from Friday, December 2, through Tuesday, December 20, were announced this week by members of the Torrance Police Car Club association. All money made from the sale of the papers will be turned over to the City of Hope.

Torrance residents who would like to contribute to the paper drive are asked to place their paper bundles on their front porches. Members of the car club association will drive around Torrance every night to pick up the bundles.

Club members will carry yellow membership cards for identification.

Contest Offers Fabulous New Year's Weekend

Local residents will have a chance to win an all expense paid New Year's weekend at the Ambassador Hotel and free reserved seats at the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game.

For further details, see story page 34.

'Little Red School House'—Old Idea With New Look

A new experiment in education is being carried on in some classes at WALTERIA elementary school. A number of first, second, and third grade students have been combined into one class, with grade distinctions completely eliminated. Some surprising results have already been noted. There is a chance that the "little red school house" idea may catch on on a nation-wide basis. For the first in a series of four articles turn to page 6.

Special Feature

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56 Pages Packed with Christmas Values!